



General Assembly

February Session, 2004

***Raised Bill No. 5636***

LCO No. 2251

\*02251\_\_\_\_\_PH\_\*

Referred to Committee on Public Health

Introduced by:  
(PH)

***AN ACT CONCERNING ORAL HEALTH CARE.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1       Section 1. (*Effective July 1, 2004*) (a) The Commissioner of Public  
2       Health shall establish an ad hoc committee for the purpose of assisting  
3       the commissioner in examining and evaluating possible statutory  
4       changes that would improve (1) access to oral health care, particularly  
5       by persons who are underinsured, uninsured or on Medicaid, and (2)  
6       the quality of oral health care. The committee shall meet not later than  
7       July 15, 2004. The committee shall focus on examining statutory  
8       changes that would meet the goals of improving access to and quality  
9       of oral health care by facilitating the use of dental hygienists as  
10      midlevel providers in public settings, considering the administration  
11      of local anesthesia and nitrous oxide by dental hygienists, expanding  
12      the functions of dental assistants, requiring continuing education for  
13      dentists, revising the definition of dentistry, considering a post-  
14      graduate year as an alternative to an examination as a requirement for  
15      licensure for dentists. Other topics may be included at the discretion  
16      of the commissioner.

17      (b) (1) The ad hoc committee shall be appointed by the

18 commissioner and shall consist of (A) two members of the Department  
 19 of Public Health, (B) four dentists recommended by the Connecticut  
 20 Dental Association, one of whom works in private practice, one of  
 21 whom works in a public practice, one of whom is an educator and one  
 22 of whom is a maxillofacial surgeon, (C) four dental hygienists  
 23 recommended by the Connecticut Dental Hygienists Association, one  
 24 of whom works in private practice, one of whom works in a public  
 25 practice, one of whom is an educator and one of whom works in a  
 26 school-based dental setting, and (D) a representative from a regionally  
 27 accredited institution of higher education that offers a program for  
 28 dental assistants. The Commissioners of Public Health and Social  
 29 Services, or their designees shall be ex-officio members with full voting  
 30 rights.

31 (2) The Commissioner of Public Health may expand the  
 32 membership of the ad hoc committee to include representatives from  
 33 related fields if the commissioner decides such expansion would be  
 34 useful.

35 (c) On or before December 1, 2004, the Commissioner of Public  
 36 Health shall submit, in accordance with section 11-4a of the general  
 37 statutes, the results of the examination, with specific recommendations  
 38 for statutory changes, to the Governor and the joint standing  
 39 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
 40 relating to public health.

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|----------------------------------------|--------------|
| This act shall take effect as follows: |              |
| Section 1                              | July 1, 2004 |

**Statement of Purpose:**

To require the Commissioner of Public Health to make recommendations for changes to the statutes that will improve access to and quality of oral health care.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*